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Letter dated 4 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 27 August 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 5, 9, 10, 20 and 21 September 1999.

On 5 September, fifteen (15) F-16, two (2) C-160, one (1) C-130, as well as one (1) CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. The 15 F-16 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting towards a south-easterly direction. The two C-160 and the C-130 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, also exiting thereafter in a south-easterly direction, before re-entering the Nicosia flight information region, again violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question returned afterwards to the flight information region of Ankara. The CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, patrolling afterwards over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas in a search and rescue role, before exiting.

On 9 September, four (4) F-16, as well as one (1) C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations. The four F-16 (two of which entered the Nicosia flight information region twice, violating international air traffic regulations) violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the areas of Kyrenia and Apostolos Andreas, before returning to the flight information region of Ankara. The C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas region),

exiting thereafter in a south-easterly direction, before re-entering the Nicosia flight information region, again violating international air traffic regulations, as well as the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, again flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas region). The aircraft in question returned afterwards to the flight information region of Ankara.

On 10 September, fifteen (15) F-16, two (2) C-130, one (1) C-160, one (1) C-235 Turkish military aircraft as well as one (1) AB-205 military helicopter entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations. The 15 F-16 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia, before exiting towards the flight information region of Ankara. The two C-130 and the C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia, exiting thereafter in a south-easterly direction. The CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, patrolling afterwards over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas in a search and rescue role, before exiting. The AB-205 military helicopter entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. The helicopter in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying above the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, at 1807 hours, from where it departed at 1826 hours, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Krini in the occupied area of the Republic.

On 20 September, one (1) B200 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing, at 1025 hours, at the illegal airport of Tymbou, in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 1341 hours, returning to the flight information region of Ankara.

On 21 September, one (1) F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. The F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia, before exiting in a south-easterly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, these unauthorized Turkish intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention to the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would also like to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1251 (1999) which called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty,

independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions.

I would also like to underline that such actions take place at a time when the international community is expecting a different attitude from the Turkish side, more specifically a positive response for the convening of comprehensive negotiations for a just settlement of the Cyprus problem, as called for in Security Council resolution 1250 (1999).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative